

CAMP WALKER DENTAL CLINIC AND AREA IV

There are three Army dental clinics in Area IV of the Republic of Korea: 1) Camp Walker Dental Clinic is located in Daegu (Taegu), 2) Camp Carroll Dental Clinic is located in Waegwan and 3) Camp Hialeah Dental Clinic is located in Busan (Pusan). Priority of care is to active duty. However, all categories of beneficiaries may seek emergency dental care. The 618th Dental Company (AS) has a dual mission to provide full-time dental service support in armistice conditions to beneficiaries in the military community while, at the same time, preparing to transition to war in support of military units in Area IV. Space available care, for family members of active duty, both Command Sponsored and Non-Command Sponsored, is not an entitlement and will occur only when a dental clinic is meeting its dental readiness mission and the Officer-In-Charge authorizes such care. Family members of active duty must maintain their Tricare Dental Plan enrollment if they hope to obtain dental treatment at times that no space available care can be offered.

Tricare Dental Plan-OCONUS

-THIS PLAN IS EXCLUSIVE TO FAMILY MEMBERS OF ACTIVE DUTY-

THERE IS NO DENTAL INSURANCE PLAN FOR RETIREES & THEIR FMS

The Tricare Dental Plan-OCONUS (TDP-O) is available for enrolled active duty family members in Korea, and has some unique features. In contrast to the CONUS TDP, plan use must be coordinated through local military dental clinics, Non-Availability Referral Forms (NARFs) are required, approved providers must be used, payment is made up-front, to the local national provider when care is delivered, and reimbursement is made directly to the patient following claim submission. Two great TDP-O benefits are patients have smaller or no co-pays for many of the provided services, and total Orthodontic treatment costs may be reimbursed beyond the normal \$1500 lifetime allowance. Additional details and guidelines are available by contacting the Tricare Representative at Camp Walker Dental Clinic, Area IV, DSN 764-4307 and by reviewing the online information found on the website maintained by United Concordia, the contractor for the TDP and TDP-O, at: <http://www.ucci.com>.

The “Reference Materials” link provides access to benefit booklets, the Enrollment/Change Form, and answers to many specific questions.

There are important differences between TDP and TDP-O. Under the existing TDP-O contract, enrollees must first seek dental care from their local military dental clinic. Dental care unavailable in the military clinics may be referred to an approved provider, local civilian dentist if the enrollee agrees, or deferred by the family member. To receive reimbursement, referral paperwork must be completed and an approved provider must provide the care. Similar to the CONUS program, not all dental treatment procedures, such as dental implants, esthetic dentistry, crowns or bridges for dental implants are covered, and if active

duty family members receive them they must pay the total cost without reimbursement. Nevertheless, because the non-covered Korean dental treatment usually costs less than if the same treatment was performed in the U.S., many family members take advantage of the savings and have the non-covered dental treatment procedures performed here. Please **DO NOT OBTAIN TREATMENT** from an approved provider without a military dental clinic referral or you will not be eligible for reimbursement.

It is highly recommended that all active duty family members living in Korea enroll in the TDP-O. This will ensure they have a choice about access to excellent dental care. Either local military dental facilities, when space available care is offered, or treatment by local national providers. If an active duty soldier's family members were enrolled in the TDP in CONUS or the TDP-O at another OCONUS location their enrollment is still valid, unless they cancelled it. An active duty service member has 90 days after relocating enrolled family members to maintain enrollment, or to cancel without penalty. Family members should definitely check with their local military dental clinic to see if their treatment needs can be met before disenrolling. If they don't disenroll within 90 days, family members must stay enrolled until the initial 12- month obligation period is completed, after which, they may cancel enrollment, at any time, without penalty. If families cancel enrollment, they can't re-enroll for another 12 months.

Active duty family members not currently enrolled in the TDP may enroll on-line at <http://www.ucci.com>. or download the Enrollment/Change Form, complete it and mail it in. Usually, the completed enrollment form must be received and processed by United Concordia by the 20th of the month to start coverage the 1st of the next month. Contact your local TRICARE representative if you need enrollment assistance.

TDP-O approved providers offer state of the art dental care. There are well established Korean education and training protocols equal to that in the United States. Competition for selection to prestigious Korean Universities is intense, and Korean dental school graduates often obtain PhDs in related research fields, do specialty training in Korea, the US, or Europe and frequently practice in group clinics. Infection Control standards, sterilization procedures, clinic operations, and continuing education mirror those found in the US. The approved provider list includes comprehensive general dentists, orthodontists, endodontists, periodontists, oral surgeons, and pediatric dentists.

Negotiations are ongoing with the services, United States Congress and Tricare Dental Program representatives to change the TDP-O restrictions. The goal is to have the TDP-O more closely resemble the TDP CONUS program and eliminate the need for military clinic referrals and Approved Provider lists. These changes are not expected to take effect before the next contract renewal cycle in 2007.

Synopsis of Orthodontic Care Priorities, Considerations and Limitations

Priorities:

- 1. Active Duty transfer patients who initiated treatment before the notification to PCS to Korea.**
 - 2. Family member transfer patients who initiated treatment before the notification to PCS to Korea.**
 - 3. Active Duty initiation of treatment based on the DEROS date and severity.**
- Currently no other categories accepted.**

Considerations:

- 1. Any active duty with combined prosthodontic, oral surgery or trauma related cases are accepted immediately when referred by the specialists.**
- 2. Children in mixed dentition are given a limited Phase I treatment by a pediatric dentist under the supervision of the orthodontist.**
- 3. Priority 1 are accepted at 100%. Priority 2 are placed on a waiting list in the order of months they were in treatment. Most of them have been accepted for treatment within two months (since July 04). The time they have to wait may change based on the patient PCS and finishing of cases.**
- 4. Numerous patients that initiated orthodontic treatment after they received the PCS Orders will be placed on the bottom of the waiting list.**

Limitations:

- 1. Demand for initiation of orthodontic treatment within military treatment facilities exceeds capability. The FM initiation of treatment category has been deleted. Instead, these patients are referred off-post to use the Tricare Dental Plan–OCONUS (TDP-O).**
- 2. The TDP-O benefit for orthodontics for AD FMs is better in the OCONUS plan (50% coverage vs. maximum of \$1500) than in the CONUS plan.**

**V/R,
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